

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
June 9, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Widing was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

Ross Township Trustee requested a waiver of any fees regarding the remodeling/maintenance of the fire service building at 26 W. 73rd Avenue. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway with conditions that they will still be responsible to pay any related inspection fees. There was no discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The Town received a request for approval of a large gathering permit for the Grecian Festival. Chief Petruch mentioned that we will have security in place for the event. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no further discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated June 9, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2015. Mrs. Miano made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann had praised Public Works for an excellent job with patching the streets.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Miano mentioned that we will be updating some ordinances with increased language and fees/fines if applicable. Mrs. Miano said that the request from Mr. Hardaway regarding the grass cutting ordinance for occupied resident homes is being researched and created. Mr. Spann requested to discuss the junk peddler's license requirements at an upcoming workshop. Mr. Hardaway brought up the topic of a resident using his garage to repair vehicles and requested clarification as to what the town requirements are for this matter. A discussion followed.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Miano shared information from a letter by Commander Kijurna to Chief Petruch in regards to accommodation case #2015-0779 which provided recognition for outstanding police work that was performed by Officer Lance Schmidt and Officer Ian Fultz. The extraordinary efforts of these officers lead to the arrest of an armed robbery suspect. These officers are commended for a job well done and will receive a level 2 accommodation. Chief Petruch responded by thanking both for such outstanding police work.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Butler, Fairman & Seufert contract approval for the construction inspection services for the C & O Trail, Phase II. Mr. Spires provided a summary of the contract and provided a copy to the council for review. Some discussion followed. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Miano stated that 16 boxes of the parks brochures were delivered to the Merrillville Community Schools for distribution to the students. It has generated multiple phone calls of interest and seems to be extremely beneficial. The Independence Day Parade will take place on Friday, July 3, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. The parade route will begin at 80th & Broadway and travel north to 67th & Broadway. The theme will be honoring our firefighters & police officers with special emphasis for our fallen officer, Nickolaus Schultz.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Lake commented on the abundance of rain lately. He mentioned that within the spring stormwater newsletter there are tips for residents on how to protect your home from water damage. An approval was received from IDEM that we are to become an IDEM clean community. Mr. Lake will inform us as to when the ceremony will take place. Mr. Hardaway commended Mr. Lake for a job well done with keeping up with any blocked storm sewer drains within the community.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Miano stated that a meeting was held with HearCare Connection, Inc. a nonprofit hearing center. They serve low-income children and adults with affordable and accessible hearing healthcare. They provide patients a reduced fee. A sliding scale is based on household size and income, making hearing healthcare more affordable. Mrs. Miano went on to say that we are in the process of establishing this service for the Town of Merrillville.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway stated that we have a Resolution coming to obtain properties at 5701 & 5709 Connecticut St. These properties will then be transferred to Habitat for Humanity. With the consent of Mrs. Miano, Mr. Hardaway would also like to obtain the vacant lot at 6746 Madison. A discussion followed regarding this parcel.

Mr. Hardaway commended Mrs. Bogdan and Mrs. Bunnel for their hard work that they are doing in regards to abandon properties. A further discussion occurred regarding developing an ordinance and fee structure for abandon properties.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-13: An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Broadway Project Bond/Contractual of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-14: An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Motor Vehicle Fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 15-15: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council authorizing acquisition of Commissioners' tax sale certificates for real property located at 5701 Connecticut Street and 5709 Connecticut Street for the purpose of assignment to Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-16: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing temporary loans to fulfill monetary requirements. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res 15-17: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing the extension of current temporary loans to December 31, 2015. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Miano. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res 15-18: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within certain categories. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement and Code of Shared Ethics & Values for the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission as amended. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Discussion followed regarding the additional parties that will need to be appointed for commission. The motion passed by a roll call vote 5-1, with 1 abstention.

Mr. Pettit announced that any private citizens interested in serving on the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission will need to submit a letter to the town managers office by June 30, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. Appointment of the private citizen will be selected at the Town Council meeting on July 14, 2015. The first Shared Ethics Advisory Commission meeting will take place on July 15, 2015. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to elect Mr. Hardaway to the Shared Ethics Advisory Board of Delegates. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Baron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Building One America round-table discussion, June 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
Plan Commission meeting, June 16, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
Environmental Resource Committee meeting, June 18, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
Lake County Mid-Year meeting with Jamal Washington – Dist. 3, June 20, 2015 at noon.
Town Council meeting, June 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pettit and seconded by Mr. Hardaway.

Tom Goralczyk, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer